

# OPERATION TANNENBERG



INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE  
Branch in Poznań

## Einsatzgruppen in Poland 1939. The vanguard of Nazi criminals in action

“  
the beastly and pathological, taking pleasure  
in controlling the lives of the victims

Gen. Johannes von Blaskowitz  
(Commander of the German 8th Army about members of the Einsatzgruppen)

### SPECIAL ARREST LIST FOR POLAND SONDERFACHDUNGSLISTE POLEN

It covered Polish citizens, who according to the Germans were hostile to the Third Reich and were to be arrested.

The list was created thanks to the spying activities of the Germans living in Poland, employees of German diplomatic missions and agents working for the Third Reich.

#### Sonderfahndungsliste Polen

Leaders of Polish society

#### The Greater Poland Insurgents

Silesian Insurgents

Members of the Polish Western Union

Clergy

Nobility

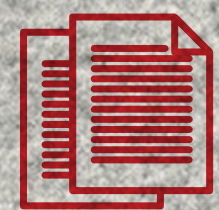
Officials

Teachers

Social and political activists



After the Einsatzgruppen entered Poland, the local Germans have started to create new arrest warrants. It is estimated that all the arrest warrants had a total of approx.



**80 000**  
names of Poles

### START OF OPERATION “TANNENBERG” IN POLAND 1939

Suppression by the Polish Army of the German diversion in Bydgoszcz (death of 365 people, mainly Germans)

AN EXCUSE FOR GERMAN ORGANISED RETALIATION

3 SEP



4 SEP

9 SEP

12 SEP

1-12 SEP

Establishment of EG z.b.V. in Gliwice (This was the special purpose group, originally operating in Upper Silesia)

The Einsatzgruppen change their names. They were responsible for the death of thousands of people

Establishment of EG VI in Frankfurt (Oder) (Its aim was to pacify the region of Wielkopolska)

In Gdańsk, the Einsatzkommando 16 is formed (It was the smallest EG formation acting as a firing squad. It was responsible for the death of thousands of people)

Forming of the German sabotage organisation Volksdeutscher Selbstschutz



- range of EG activities (as at 12 September 1939)
- The Free City of Gdańsk
- 📄 arrest warrants created with the help of local Germans
- 💀 Einsatzgruppen (operational groups)
- 👤 crimes committed by members of Volksdeutscher Selbstschutz
- ➔ approximate EG march routes in Poland